

## CONSUMER ALERT

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### NDBF Announces New Resources and Tools for Choosing a Financial Professional

FEBRUARY 14, 2018 (LINCOLN, NEB.) — The Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance (“NDBF”) announced today a new resource, [The Informed Investor Advisory: Financial Service Providers](#). The advisory will help Nebraskans understand the different types of financial services providers, how to check out their background, and important questions to ask before signing a contract.

Nebraskans are also encouraged to check out a new online guide available at [www.aarp.org/InterviewAnAdvisor](http://www.aarp.org/InterviewAnAdvisor) that helps identify questions to ask before hiring a financial adviser. [Interview an Adviser](#) is a free tool launched recently by AARP and the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), of which the Department is a member. The online tool does not require an AARP membership to use.

“Many people would benefit from working with a financial professional. It’s best to take the time and do your homework to understand the services they offer, their responsibilities to you, and what you will be paying. However, many people don’t know where to start or what questions to ask,” says NDBF Deputy Director Claire McHenry.

The selection of any professional can be done best by following a step-by-step search process. Check his or her credentials, experience, reputation and qualifications by using [BrokerCheck.FINRA.org](http://BrokerCheck.FINRA.org) or contacting NDBF. Identify your primary needs in seeking financial advice in order to evaluate each financial adviser you meet based on his or her ability to help fulfill those needs. Ask a lot of questions to make sure the adviser is a good fit for you based on your financial situation and needs. It is your responsibility and right to fully investigate the financial adviser's background, methods of practice, and credentials.

More information about the laws governing the securities industry in Nebraska can be found on NDBF’s website at [www.ndbf.nebraska.gov](http://www.ndbf.nebraska.gov). If you have questions about any investment matter, call NDBF’s Consumer Hotline toll free at (877) 471-3445 in Nebraska, or (402) 471-3445 if you are out of state.

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